

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted on July 31, 2006. During that interview, the art of record was discussed, as well as U.S. 2005/0252295 A1 (Fink). Applicants believe that a tentative agreement was reached that the claims as amended are in allowable condition.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 3-8, 15, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in view of US2004/0019262 (Perelgut). Applicants believe that agreement was reached during the interview that these claims are patentable in view of Perelgut.

Claims 15 and 15-20, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in view of U.S. 5,197,475 (Antich). Applicants believe that agreement was reached during the interview that these claims are patentable in view of Antich.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-8, 15-21, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in view of (a) Perelgut or (b) 5,810,731 (Sarvazyan) alone or further in view of U.S. 6,764,448 (Trahey), in any case in further view of Antich. Applicants believe that agreement was reached during the interview that these claims are patentable in view of these references.

Claims 9-14 and 22-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) in view of Antich or (a) Perelgut or (b) Sarvazyan alone or further in view of Trahey, further in view of Antich, further in view of U.S. 6,899,680 (Hoff). Applicants believe that agreement was reached during the interview that these claims are patentable in view of these references.

New Claims


Applicants have added claims 43-46. These claims depend from claims 1 and 15, respectively, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 15 are patentable. Claims 43-46 do not add new matter.

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Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the Attorney listed below, at the number provided, with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,


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